



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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January 11, 2006

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Keith Higman and Karen VanDusen, WSBOH Members

SUBJECT: FOOD WORKER CARDS, CHAPTER 246-217 WAC

Background and Summary

The State Board of Health has specific authority under Chapter 69.06 RCW to adopt rules setting standards for the issuance of food worker permits by local health officers or their designated representatives. Existing rules clarify when workers must have food worker permits and topics that must be included in training for a worker to receive a permit card.

In 2005, Substitute House Bill 1591 amended the law to allow adult family home workers to use caregiver training and certification approved by the Department of Social and Health Services (received after June 30, 2005) as an alternative to required food worker training and permitting done under the authority of the local health officer. This proposal would change WAC 246-217-015 to match the changes made to Chapter 69.06 RCW regarding adult family home workers.

Also, the Board received a petition for rule making, in the form of letters from Senator Bill Finkbeiner and Sallie Thieme Sanford of Seattle, requesting that food allergy awareness education be added to the food worker training topics required by these rules. The United States Food and Drug Administration estimates that 2.5 percent of people in this country have one or more serious food allergies. The Department of Health reviewed the scientific merit of this request and agreed that such a requirement could potentially add some protection for individuals who have food allergies. This proposal would change WAC 246-217-025 to require food allergy awareness information be included in food worker training.

Board Action Recommended

Depending on testimony offered and the Board's own discussions, the Board may choose to consider, amend if necessary, or adopt the following motion:

Motion: The Board adopts the revised Chapter 246-217 WAC as published in WSR 05-24-116.